AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (previously presented): A network management system for implementing a service on a network, said network management system comprising:

means for acquiring policy rules for configuring said service;

means for determining commands corresponding to said policy rules;

means for transmitting the determined commands to network elements of the network; and

means for inferring said policy rules to determine said commands,

wherein said policy rules comprise services rules, which create a service in the network and implementation rules,

wherein said implementation rules for creating said service comprise technology rules and equipment rules, and

wherein the technology rules model expert know-how and specify how to determine technology to use in the service being created based on stored attributes of equipment in the network and stored attributes of the service.

2.   (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1,

wherein said inference means comprises an inference engine provided in the network

management system and external to the network comprising the network elements.

3- 4.   (canceled).

5.   (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1,

wherein the service rules are provided externally from the network management system and

wherein the service rules specify conditions and timing for creating the service.

6.   (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1[],

wherein the technology rules specify which protocol to use for the service based on the attributes

of the equipment in the network and wherein the equipment rules model how to select the

technology rules based on the attributes of the equipment.

7.   (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1,

wherein the service is created via the service rules independently from specifications of

equipment and technology specified in the implementation rules and wherein the implementation

rules are dynamically implemented after the determining means determines applicable

implementation rules.

8.   (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1,

wherein the service is created via the service rules by an operator without requiring specific

knowledge of equipment and technology of the network for the service.

9.   (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1,

wherein the implementation rules specify implementation specific details of the service.

10.   (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1,

wherein the implementation rules specify attributes of the service.

11.   (previously presented): The network management system claimed in claim 1,

wherein the service is a virtual private network.

12.   (new): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the

technology to be used is determined based on a number of sites involved in a particular network.

13.   (new): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the

equipment rules are used to model how the equipment rules must be selected for a particular

equipment type.

14.   (new): The network management system claimed in claim 1, wherein the

particular equipment type is selected based on their capacity.